

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4386
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2001
DEVELOPMENT OF DESERT DISTRICTS
JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to formulate any scheme, separately, for development of desert districts in the country, especially in Rajasthan which has vast and covered land;
- (b) if so, the details therefor;
- (c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a) to (d) The Desert Development Programme (DDP) of the Ministry of Rural Development is already under implementation in 7 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka and Rajasthan spread over 232 Blocks in 40 districts, with a total area of 4.58 lakh square kilometers. This Programme aims at controlling desertification by regeneration of depleted natural resource base and is being implemented on watershed basis under the Guidelines for Watershed Development with effect from 1.4.1995.

Each watershed project is of an average size of 500 hectares. The responsibility of planning, execution and maintenance of assets is delegated to people's own organization at the village level namely Watershed Association/Watershed Committee with financial support from the Government and technical support from Project Implementing Agency. The duration of one watershed project is 5 years.

A total of 6565 projects covering 32.82 lakh hectares have been sanctioned under DDP for programme States including Rajasthan. Year-wise details of projects sanctioned and funds released for Rajasthan and for the entire country(including Rajasthan) are as under:-

Year Number of projects sanctioned Funds released (Rupees in Crores)
Rajasthan Entire country Rajasthan Entire country

1995-96	841	1693	Rs.53.58	Rs.101.00
1996-97	00	65	Rs.16.40	Rs.65.37
1997-98	00	36	Rs.34.64	Rs.70.01
1998-99	00	400	Rs.50.64	Rs.79.80
1999-2000	883	1500	Rs.39.01	Rs.84.99
2000-2001	681	1659	Rs.78.54	Rs.134.99
2001-2002	509	1212	Rs.54.84	Rs.102.80

Total 2914 6565 Rs. 327.65 Rs. 638.96